

What is claimed is:

1. A method of operating a data transmission network comprising at least two outer rings and a middle ring which are coupled to one another via nodes, wherein one of the nodes represents a central node for all three rings, and wherein switching devices for the establishment of connections are contained in each of the nodes, the method comprising the steps of recognizing that a connection is to be established from the one outer ring to the other outer ring via the middle ring, and establishing the connection taking into account all three rings.

2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the central node comprises two switching devices, and wherein the connection is established via one of the two switching devices of the central node, preferably as shared-protection-ring.

3. A method according to Claim 1, wherein establishment of the connection comprises the steps of:

- splitting the connection at a start point into two parallel connections and routing the connection via one of the two outer rings,
- routing the two parallel connections to a switching device in the central node and to a switching device in one of the two other nodes, respectively,
- routing from each of the two switching devices a connection to the respective other switching device,
- routing from the two switching devices two parallel connections via the middle ring to the other outer ring, and
- combining the two parallel connections at an endpoint.

4. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the middle ring comprises two connections parallel to one another, and wherein the connection is established via one of the two parallel connections.

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5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the rings has the form of a shared-protection-ring-connection.

10 6. A method according to Claim 5, wherein at least one ring and at least one shared-protection-ring-connection are combined.

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